

in public service as the Deputy Coroner for Cook County Coroner's Office; a post he held for eight years. Throughout the 70's and 80's he served as the mayor of the Village of Chicago Ridge on a part-time basis. Then, in 1993, Gene was elected as the full-time mayor and has served in this capacity for the last seven years.

Mayor Siegel is a man for the people. As mayor, he has been actively involved with people of all ages throughout the community that he serves. For example, he was instrumental in the development of a Senior Citizen Center and the establishment of the Youth Service Bureau with a Youth Director to counsel families and their children.

As mayor, Gene has made remarkable economic, environmental and infrastructure improvements to the Village of Chicago Ridge. For example, he created a solvent tax base by implementing the development of both the Chicago Ridge Mall and the Commons of Chicago Ridge. He also was involved with the improvement of Ridgeland Avenue to establish commercial land use, the installation of an adequate water system with a two million gallon reservoir, and a plumbing station.

Mayor Siegel has been instrumental in bringing economic prosperity to the community. He has proven to be a true asset to his family, friends and community. I am proud to have Mayor Siegel as a colleague of mine in the district.

I wish to extend my heartiest congratulations to Mayor Siegel and his family as he celebrates 25 years in public service. This is a remarkable accomplishment and Mayor Siegel deserves great credit for the vast improvements and economic development that he has brought to the Village of Chicago Ridge. My best wishes to the Mayor and his family on this wonderful milestone.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE BILL
COATS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute today to the late District Court Judge, W. E. "Bill" Coats, of Tyler, TX, who died in April of this year at the age of 76. Judge Coats served Smith County for 30 years as judge and district attorney. He had practiced law in Smith County since 1954.

He was elected the first Republican district attorney in Texas, serving from 1963 until 1967. He also served as judge of County Court at Law No. 2, from 1975-79, and served as 7th District Court Judge to complete his 30 years of service in Smith County. He also was appointed by the Tyler City Commission in 1968 to serve as Municipal Court Judge. Judge Coats was a Mason and Shriner and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

Survivors include a son, William Fred Coats of Tyler; daughters, Fonda Reeves of Tyler, Ardis Maxwell of Luling, and LeAnn Craven of Wills Point; a brother, James Coats of Whitehouse; 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Judge Coats brought dignity and honor to the courtroom—and in all that he accomplished. His distinguished career and contributions to the practice of law and the judiciary in Smith County will be long remembered, and I would like to take this opportunity to join his family, his friends, and his peers in paying our last respects to this respected District Court Judge, Bill Coats. As we adjourn today let us do so in his memory.

HONORING TILLIE BURGIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MISSION ARLINGTON/MISSION METROPLEX

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor Tillie Burgin, executive director of Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex. Mrs. Burgin was recently inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. Called the Mother Teresa of Arlington, Tillie Burgin works through Mission Arlington to provide the community's poor and underprivileged families food, clothing, shelter, counseling, childcare, healthcare, and a myriad of additional services.

Tillie Burgin originally founded Mission Arlington in August 1986 to fulfill her vision of "taking church to the community." Mrs. Burgin began with just two Bible study meetings in an apartment community. As Mission Arlington grew, however, so did Tillie's vision. The importance of meeting people's physical and emotional, as well as spiritual needs, became immediately apparent. The organization has since expanded to provide a number of social services to Arlington, bringing hope and opportunity to every person in the community.

I am proud of the work that Tillie Burgin and Mission Arlington do to strengthen the city of Arlington and its families. She has changed innumerable lives with her great energy and dedication. Texas is honored to be home to Tillie and her Mission. I cannot think of a more passionate, humble, or deserving woman to receive this honor. I salute her today.

TRIBUTE TO ST. CLEMENT
CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Clement Catholic Church in Center Line, Michigan as they celebrate 150 years of service to the Warren and Center Line communities with an anniversary mass on October 15, 2000.

Generation after generation has been blessed and served by St. Clement Catholic Church which has held a prominent place in their lives. Beginning in 1857, the Church has engaged in a series of reconstruction and expansion programs in order to accommodate the growing number of students.

Today, their present church is an outstanding edifice—adorned with stained glass

panes, a marble altar, and has a seating capacity, of 1600 parishioners.

St. Clement Catholic Church has benefitted from outstanding leadership, and the communities are most grateful to the service and dedication of members of the clergy, past and present. Education has been a priority and though there were periods of financial hardship, the students were always a priority.

Today, Father Ron Victor continues the tradition of caring and devotion to the communities of Center Line and Warren. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending many events at St. Clement including its traditional festivals and fish-fries. Over the years, it always has been a pleasure to meet and spend time with many parishioners of the church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Clement Catholic Church as they continue their mission of faith and service to the parish and broader community, and wish them continued success.

HONORING SHERI ROCHFORD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to commend Sheri Rochford on her outstanding commitment to education at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. Sheri's contributions as Dean of Development have helped to foster the educational environment that Fort Lewis takes such great pride in. Her efforts deserve the praise of this body.

Sheri was born in Denver, Colorado, but her family soon made Durango her home. She attended school in Southern Colorado, graduating from Durango High School and then moving on to Fort Lewis College where she graduated in 1977 with a degree in business and history. Her graduate work was done at Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After completing a master's degree in counseling, Sheri went on to do her doctorate with Harvard by attending classes on weekends and during summers in Farmington, New Mexico.

For the past five years, Sheri has been the Dean of Development at Fort Lewis College. After receiving her education, she joined the Fort Lewis College staff as a secretary for the sciences faculty. Her natural ability to lead and desire to succeed soon moved her up the ladder of advancement. Before becoming Dean, she served Fort Lewis College in the capacity of Director of Admissions.

Along with her duties at Fort Lewis, Sheri is also quite active in the community of Durango. She has served as president of the Durango Foundation for Educational Excellence and has been a long time supporter and member of the La Plata County Historical Society and the Animas Museum. Sheri has worked diligently for the community of Durango and Fort Lewis College. Her contributions have been great in number. As she continues to serve as Dean of Development, I wish her the very best. Sheri is one of our own in western Colorado and she has made us all very proud.